



**February 17, 2005**

## **Federal charges lodged against two in alleged robbery plot**

Federal complaints have been lodged against **King L. Chan** and **George G. O'Neill**, both of West Warwick, charging them with conspiracy and firearms offenses in an alleged plot to commit robberies at a firearms dealer, a bank, and a bingo hall. Local police arrested the two men on state charges last week and a team of federal agents and local police rearrested them on the federal charges on February 15.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente, Thomas H. Wlodyka, Resident Agent in Charge of the Providence Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and West Warwick Police Chief Peter Brousseau jointly announced the complaints, which were filed on February 15 in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Chan, 22, of 226 Providence Street, and O'Neill, 20, of 219 Providence Street, appeared yesterday before Magistrate Judge David L. Martin, who ordered them detained pending a hearing scheduled for today at 2:00 PM in U.S. District Court, Providence.

According to an ATF affidavit supporting the complaints, West Warwick Police developed evidence that Chan and O'Neill had generated detailed plans to commit robberies at a bank in Massachusetts, a gun store in West Warwick, and a bingo hall in West Warwick. On February 9, detectives observed Chan conduct surveillance at Valley Firearms on Main Street in West Warwick.

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On February 10, West Warwick Police obtained state warrants to arrest Chan and O'Neill and a search warrant for Chan's house at 226 Providence Street. In the house, officers found a duffle bag containing a sawed-off shotgun and detailed plans for robberies at Valley Firearms, Sovereign Bank in Lynnfield, Massachusetts, and a bingo hall in West Warwick.

The federal complaint charges Chan and O'Neill with unlawfully possessing a shotgun with an overall length of less than 26 inches, conspiring to steal guns from a federally licensed firearms dealer, conspiring to commit robbery, and conspiring to commit a robbery at a federally-insured bank. The charges are felonies and are therefore subject to review by a federal grand jury.

The **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and West Warwick Police** conducted the investigation, with assistance from **Coventry Police**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker is prosecuting the case.

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